

32

45. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the biological marker comprises an indicator of pancreatic function.

REMARKS

Entry of the Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of the above-identified divisional application on the merits is respectfully requested. The claims for the above-identified divisional application correspond to the non-elected claims (Group I) of the parent application U.S. Serial No. 09/466,559 filed on December 17, 1999, as set forth in the Election/Restriction requirement of October 10, 2001. No new matter has been added by the Preliminary Amendment. A substitute page 1 is annexed hereto illustrating the above amendment to the specification. Early and favorable consideration of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank DeRosa

Reg. No. 43,584

Attorney for Applicant

F. Chau & Associates, LLP
1900 Hempstead Tnpk.
East Meadow, NY 11553
TEL.: (516) 357-0091
FAX: (516) 357-0092